

News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, February 16, 2003

4:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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SHELTERS OPEN IN COUNTIES; DRIVING RESTRICTED THROUGHOUT STATE

As snow continues to blanket the entire state, the American Red Cross of Delammarva is opening shelters in each of the three counties as of 5 p.m. Those who need transportation to a shelter can call the county emergency operations centers for assistance.

State officials urge the public to respect the declaration of a State of Emergency and not drive. Road conditions remain hazardous and any unofficial vehicles on the road will put the public at peril and impede road and emergency crews in performing their duties.

Those who do drive without official authorization are subject to arrest.

The shelters are as follows:

- New Castle County – Marshallton National Guard Armory, 1401 Newport Gap Pike, Wilmington
- Kent County – Dover High School, Patrick Lynn Drive, Dover
- Sussex County – Sussex Central High School, West Market Street, Georgetown

Those needing transportation assistance to shelters can call the following numbers:

- New Castle County Emergency Operations Center – 573-2855
- Kent County Emergency Operations Center – 735-3467
- Sussex County Emergency Operations Center – 856-7366

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Kent County Emergency Management and the Delaware National Guard will be providing transportation from North Bowers Beach, Kitts Hummock, Pickering Beach and Woodlin Beach. For information on the location of National Guard vehicles, call Kent County EOC, 735-3467.

The three shelters will open at 5 p.m. The Red Cross is coordinating nurses to staff each shelter along with trained Red Cross personnel.

Those coming to shelters are asked to bring the following items:

- Personal care items including soap, tooth brush and tooth paste, towels
- Medications and other special needs including infant formula and bottles, baby foods, diapers
- Blankets and pillows (cots may not be available at all shelters and those sheltering should be prepared to sleep on the floor)
- Non-perishable foods (because of storm and road conditions, there may be difficulty transporting food to the shelters)

Those coming to shelters MAY NOT bring pets.

They also should NOT bring valuables of any kind.

For further information on shelters, call ARC of Delmarva Manager of Communications Jeannine Herrmann, 302-738-4333; 302-383-7006.

Again, driving is restricted by law under Gov. Ruth Ann Minner's declaration of a State of Emergency. Snow and/or freezing rain will continue throughout Sunday night and Monday, and road conditions will not significantly improve for at least 24 hours. All unnecessary and unofficial driving is restricted for the safety of the public and that of transportation and emergency workers.

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